



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 19, 1993

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *aa*

RE: Site Inspection, Barrick Mercur, Mercur Mine, M/045/017, Tooele County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 13, 1993  
Time of Inspection: 1522 - 1640  
Conditions: Partly cloudy  
Participants: Dave Beatty, Barrick Mercur; Holland Shepherd, Tony Gallegos, and Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To examine and evaluate areas recently reclaimed and propose reclamation techniques for difficult areas.

We first visited the Snider dump located north of the main road. This dump is composed of fines and coarse rock, light in color, currently at an angle of approximately 1.8:1. The natural slope underlying the dump is approximately 1.7:1. The dump material has graded itself out through end dumping so that the fines remain in the upper portion of the slope while the larger materials migrate to the bottom.

Barrick attempted to cast topsoil onto the dump slope using a backhoe. The attempt did not achieve the desired results. Most of the topsoil slid to the bottom of the dump. The fines give the appearance of a suitable growth medium; however, the top and upper portion of the slopes have formed a very durable crust resulting from the clay content of the dump material. At this time nothing is growing on the slopes, although Barrick did hydroseed the dump earlier this year. It may be the crust or the chemical makeup of the dump materials which has prevented plant growth. The natural slope under the dump is quite steep. Mr. Beatty indicated that regrading the dump out to a 2:1 configuration would disturb a considerable amount of area and probably place dump material onto the main access road below.



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The next area visited was the North Mercur Dump located immediately south of the main access road. This dump is at the angle of repose. The slope below the dump bench was sprayed with a hydromulch mix of pelletized alfalfa, seed and fertilizer. The pelletized alfalfa was visible on the dump and seemed to stick quite well to the steep slope. There were plants (mostly grasses and shrubs) growing on the slope. Some of this growth appeared to be new plants. Mr. Beatty informed us that the hydromulching of this slope took place in May 1993.

The next area visited was the portion of the North Mercur Dump located above the same access bench. According to Mr. Beatty, this slope was also sprayed with a hydromulch mix. There was rabbit brush and sagebrush growing on the slope, which appeared to be older and natural invaders. There was also some new palmer penstemon. No signs of alfalfa or a wood fiber mulch were evident on this slope. Mr. Beatty said he would contact the contractor for specifics.

The inspection concluded with the understanding that Mr. Beatty would check into the reclamation requirements for the Snider Dump in the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan. The Division would also review the plan. The Division explained to Mr. Beatty, that if the language in the original permit described regrading to a less radical slope, we would require that this approach be followed. Also, if the original permit was non-specific, we would also require a less radical slope.

A future inspection of the Sunrise Dump was discussed although no date was planned. Barrick's use of the pelletized alfalfa appears to hold well on steep slopes, but the long term performance of this method will need to be evaluated.

jb  
cc: Dave Beatty, Barrick Mercur  
M45-17.INS